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PRESS RELEASE: Let the members decide on STV, argues the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy

The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD) has today, launched a campaign to prevent the Labour Party's National Executive from changing the rules of its own election, without allowing any input from Labour's 500,000 members.

At a special meeting on 30th June, Labour's NEC will unilaterally decide on whether to change the method of its election for the 9 Constituency seats from First Past the Post to Single Transferable vote.

[Writing in LabourList](#), CLPD Assistant Secretary Jake Rubin warns that, "there is a real danger of the party sleepwalking into a change that Labour's members have not scrutinised or debated through its democratic structures, at either local CLP level or at party conference."

Making the case against STV, Rubin argues that the change risks the NEC elections descending into a "beauty contest", favouring those in the party with celebrity status and an already high profile at the disadvantage of already under-represented groups in the party, such as those from BAME or working-class backgrounds.

"This sudden decision to change the voting system so soon before the election will happen is even more suspicious given there is no conference this year and calls into question whether the motivation is really to improve the party's democratic process or actually to change the make-up of the NEC for factional advantage."

He argues that, instead of the change being rushed through and decided by a small number of people in a closed NEC meeting, the change should be put to the next meeting of the party's sovereign body, national conference so that "members and affiliates can properly consider, debate and vote on it in full."

CLPD are encouraging members to email NEC representatives to refer the matter to the next party conference, using their model letter to NEC members, which can be found [here](#).

About CLPD:

Since its founding in 1973, The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy has argued for greater power to be given to Labour's members, affiliates and democratic bodies.

CLPD was instrumental in the 1980s battle to secure Open Selections for Labour candidates and in pushing for democratic reforms during Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the party.

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